

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A seat storing structure for a vehicle, comprising:

a seat including a seat cushion provided on a floor in a passenger compartment of the vehicle, a seat back supported by a rear portion of said seat cushion, and a headrest supported by said seat back, and constructed so as to selectively attain a seating state where said seat back is erected in the vicinity of the rear portion of said seat cushion or a folded state where said seat back is folded down forward onto said seat cushion;

a pivotally supporting mechanism provided between said seat and the floor for supporting said seat and pivoting the seat rearward with said seat maintaining the folded state; and

a recess formed in the floor behind said seat for storing said seat such that a surface of said seat cushion is substantial alignment with the floor after said seat has been pivoted rearward with said seat maintaining the folded state,

wherein said headrest is supported by said seat back so as to shift between a first state where said headrest is located at the top of said seat back with said seat in the seating state, and a second state where said headrest is located on a back surface of said seat back and within paths of pivotal motions of said seat back and seat cushion with said seat maintaining the folded state.

2. The seat storing structure for a vehicle as defined in Claim 1,

wherein the outer periphery of the path of the pivotal motion of said seat cushion and the outer periphery of the path of the pivotal motion of said seat back are substantially identical to each other during the rearward pivotal motion of said seat with said seat being in the folded state and said headrest being in the second state.

3. The seat storing structure for a vehicle as defined in Claim 2,

wherein an upper and rear edge of said recess is substantially on the outer

periphery of the path drawn by the pivotal motion of said seat cushion and the outer periphery of the path drawn by the pivotal motion of said seat back.

4. The seat storing structure for a vehicle as defined in Claim 1,

wherein the pivotally supporting mechanism includes a pivotal axis at which said seat is pivotally supported, and supports said seat so as to locate the rear edge of said seat in the seating state at a portion rearward of the front edge of said recess, and

the pivotal axis is located between the rear edge of said seat and the front edge of said recess with respect to the longitudinal direction of the vehicle.

5. The seat storing structure for a vehicle as defined in Claim 1,

wherein the back surface of said seat back is formed with a depression that accommodates said headrest in the second state.

6. The seat storing structure for a vehicle as defined in Claim 1,

wherein said headrest is in contact with both said seat back and a bottom surface of said recess within a space defined between said seat back and the bottom surface of said recess, when said seat has been stored in said recess.

7. The seat storing structure for a vehicle as defined in Claim 3,

wherein the vehicle includes an opening portion formed behind said seat and a hatch door for opening and closing the opening portion, and

said pivotally supporting mechanism, said seat cushion, and said seat back are configured such that said seat causes no interference with the hatch door being closed while said seat in the folded state is being pivoted rearward.

8. The seat storing structure for a vehicle as defined in Claim 7,

wherein the distance between the pivotal axis and an inboard surface of the hatch door is longer than the distance between the pivotal axis and the outer periphery of the path drawn by the pivotal motion of said seat cushion, and longer than the distance between the pivotal axis and the outer periphery of the path drawn

by the pivotal motion of said seat back.

9. The seat storing structure for a vehicle as defined in Claim 1,

wherein a silencer is provided beneath the floor, the silencer having an elliptic-cylindrical shape and disposed in front of the recess such that its longitudinal direction is oriented substantially in the width direction of the vehicle and the major axis of an ellipsoid as its cross-section is oriented substantially in the vertical direction of the vehicle.

10. The seat storing structure for a vehicle as defined in Claim 9,

wherein the floor is slanted such that its rear portion is situated higher than its front portion.

11. A seat storing structure for a vehicle comprising:

a seat including a seat cushion provided on a floor in a passenger compartment of the vehicle, a seat back supported by a rear portion of said seat cushion, and a headrest supported by said seat back, and constructed so as to selectively attain a seating state, where said seat back is erected in the vicinity of the rear portion of said seat cushion, or a folded state, where said seat back is folded down forward onto said seat cushion;

a pivotally supporting mechanism provided between said seat and the floor for supporting said seat and pivoting said seat rearward with said seat maintaining the folded state, said pivotally supporting mechanism including a pivotal axis at which said seat is pivotally supported and supporting said seat so as to locate the rear edge of said seat in the seating state at a portion rearward of the front edge of said recess,

the pivotal axis being located between the rear edge of said seat and the front edge of said recess with respect to a longitudinal direction of the vehicle, and

a recess formed in the floor behind said seat for storing said seat such that a lower surface of said seat cushion is substantial alignment with the floor after the

overall seat has been pivoted rearward with said seat maintaining the folded state,

wherein said headrest is supported to said seat back so as to shift between a first state where said headrest is located at the top of said seat back with said seat in the seating state, and a second state where said headrest is located on a back surface of said seat back and at the inside of paths of the pivotal motions of said seat back and seat cushion with said seat maintaining the folded state, and

wherein an upper and rear edge of said recess is substantially on the outer periphery of the path drawn by the pivotal motion of said seat cushion and the outer periphery of the path drawn by the pivotal motion of said seat back.

12. A seat storing structure for a vehicle comprising:

a seat including a seat cushion provided on a floor in a passenger compartment of the vehicle, a seat back supported by a rear portion of said seat cushion, and a headrest supported by said seat back, and constructed so as to selectively attain a seating state, where said seat back is erected in the vicinity of the rear portion of said seat cushion, or a folded state, where said seat back is folded down forward onto said seat cushion;

a pivotally supporting mechanism provided between said seat and the floor for supporting said seat and pivoting said seat rearward with said seat maintaining the folded state, and

a recess formed in the floor behind said seat for storing said seat such that a lower surface of said seat cushion is substantial alignment with the floor after the overall seat has been pivoted rearward with said seat maintaining the folded state,

wherein said headrest is supported by said seat back so as to shift between a first state where said headrest is located at the top of said seat back with said seat in the seating state, and a second state where said headrest is located on a back surface of said seat back and at the inside of paths of the pivotal motions of said seat back and seat cushion with said seat maintaining the folded state, and

wherein the floor is slanted such that its rear portion is situated higher than its front portion.